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Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made;

if said determining step determines that a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made, transmitting an indicator to a communication application server representing an instruction that packets received from the mobile terminal are to be stored for later delivery to a destination Pal and that an attempt to set up a substantially real-time voice communication link with the destination Pal is not to be made regardless of whether the destination Pal is or is not currently available to accept a communication from the mobile terminal;

encoding audio input from a user by the mobile terminal into the packets following the determining step;

transmitting the packets to the communication application server for later delivery to the destination Pal.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made comprises sensing that the destination Pal selected by the user to receive the audio input is not available prior to the user initiating the encoding step.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of sensing that the Pal selected by the user as the destination party to receive the audio input is not available comprises the step of determining a current status of the selected Pal stored in the mobile terminal, where the status represents that the selected Pal is not available to receive communications.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising wherein the step of determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made comprises determining that an input signal is entered by the user where the input signal represents a request to send said packets as a delayed delivery voice message regardless of whether or not the destination Pal selected to receive the packets is currently available to receive communications transmitting a further indicator to the communication application server where the further indicator represents a further instruction to set up a substantially real-time communication link with the destination Pal, where the indicator and the further indicator are different and cause the communication application server to take correspondingly different communication action as to communications for the destination Pal.~~

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting an indicator to a communication application server representing an instruction that the packets are to be stored for later delivery to a destination Pal causes the audio carried by the packets to be stored in the communication application server.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the instruction further conveys to the communication application server that the packets are not to be attempted to be delivered in real-time to the destination Pal.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made comprises the steps of generating a first request for a real-time voice communication to the destination Pal in response to the push-to-talk button being pressed, providing a first alert to the user indicating that a real-time voice communication to the destination Pal is not available, and sensing a second request to initiate communications to the destination Pal by the push-to-talk button being depressed again following the alert having been provided to the user.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of sensing the second request includes sensing the push-to-talk button being depressed again within a predetermined time interval of the first request.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of providing a second alert to the user in response to the second request wherein the second alert comprises a predetermined talk-beep associated with the request to send a delayed delivery voice message, the predetermined talk-beep comprising an audible alert that is different from an audible alert associated with the initiation of a real-time voice communication.

10. (currently amended) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

means for determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made;

means for transmitting an indicator to a communication application server representing an instruction that packets received from the mobile terminal are to be stored for later delivery to a destination Pal and that an attempt to set up a substantially real-time voice communication link with the destination Pal is not to be made regardless of whether the destination Pal is or is not currently available to accept a communication from the mobile terminal, the transmitting means transmitting the indicator if said determining means determines that a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made;

means for encoding audio input from a user by the mobile terminal into the packets following the determining step;

means for transmitting the packets to the communication application server for later delivery to the destination Pal.

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11. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 10 wherein the means for determining comprises means for sensing that the destination Pal selected by the user to receive the audio input is not available to receive real-time communications.

12. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 11 wherein the means for sensing comprises means for determining a current status of the selected Pal stored in the mobile terminal, where the status represents that the selected Pal is not available to receive communications.

13. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 10 ~~wherein the~~ further comprising means for ~~determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made~~ comprises means for determining that an input signal is entered by the user where the input signal represents a request to send said packets as a delayed delivery voice message regardless of whether or not the destination Pal selected to receive the packets is currently available to receive communications transmitting a further indicator to the communication application server where the further indicator represents a further instruction to set up a substantially real-time communication link with the destination Pal, where the indicator and the further indicator are different and cause the communication application server to take correspondingly different communication action as to communications for the destination Pal.

14. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 10 wherein the means for transmitting an indicator to a communication application server representing an instruction that the packets are to be stored for later delivery to a destination Pal causes the audio carried by the packets to be stored in the communication application server.

15. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 14 wherein the instruction transmitted by the means for transmitting further conveys to the communication application server that the packets are not to be attempted to be delivered in real-time to the destination Pal.

16. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 10 wherein the means for determining if a request to send a delayed delivery voice message has been made comprises means for generating

a first request for a real-time voice communication to the destination Pal in response to the push-to-talk button being pressed, means for providing a first alert to the user indicating that a real-time voice communication to the destination Pal is not available, and means for sensing a second request to initiate communications to the destination Pal by the push-to-talk button being depressed again following the alert having been provided to the user.

17. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 16 wherein the means for sensing the second request includes means for sensing the push-to-talk button being depressed again within a predetermined time interval of the first request.

18. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 16 further comprising means for providing a second alert to the user in response to the second request, the second alert comprises a predetermined talk-beep associated with the request to send a delayed delivery voice message, the predetermined talk-beep comprising an audible alert that is different from an audible alert associated with the initiation of a real-time voice communication.

19. (currently amended) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

receiving continually updated first data from a communication application server without the mobile terminal having to request same, where the first data defines which Pals on a list of Pals of a first user have a corresponding previously transmitted voice message from the first user that is stored and awaits delivery to the corresponding Pal;

displaying thea list of Pals of the first user including visual indicia for each Pal representing that a previously transmitted voice message by the first user to at least a first Pal is stored and awaits delivery to the first Pal, said visual indicia based on the first data;

determining if a request has been made by the first user to access the stored voice message;

if said request is determined to have been made, discerning the type of access desired by the first user;

transmitting a command to a communication application server at which the voice message is stored where the command conveys instructions to the communication application server to implement action based on the type of access desired by the first user.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of discerning comprises discerning that the stored voice message is to be played back to the first user and wherein the transmitted command conveys instructions to the communication application server to implement transmission of the stored voice message to the first user, the method further comprising the step of receiving at the mobile terminal of the first user the stored voice message previously transmitted by the first user to the first Pal and audibly playing the stored voice message.

21. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of discerning comprises discerning that the stored voice message is to be deleted and wherein the transmitted command conveys instructions to the communication application server to delete the stored voice message previously transmitted by the first user to the first Pal, the method further comprising the step of receiving at the mobile terminal of the first user a signal technology that the stored voice message has been deleted.

22. (currently amended) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

means for receiving continually updated first data from a communication application server without the mobile terminal having to request same, where the first data defines which Pals on a list of Pals of a first user have a corresponding previously transmitted voice message from the first user that is stored and awaits delivery to the corresponding Pal;

means for displaying thea list of Pals of the first user including visual indicia for each Pal representing that a previously transmitted voice message by the first user to at least a first Pal is stored and awaits delivery to the first Pal, said visual indicia based on the first data;

means for determining if a request has been made by the first user to access the stored voice message;

means for discerning the type of access desired by the first user if said request is determined to have been made;

means for transmitting a command to a communication application server at which the voice message is are stored where the command conveys instructions to the communication application server to implement action based on the type of access desired by the first user.

23. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 22 wherein the means for discerning discerns that the stored voice message is to be played back to the first user and wherein the means for transmitting transmits the command that conveys instructions to the communication application server to implement transmission of the stored voice message to the first user, the mobile terminal further comprising means for receiving, at the mobile terminal of the first user, the stored voice message previously transmitted by the first user to the first Pal and audibly playing the stored voice message.

24. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 22 wherein the means for discerning discerns that the stored voice message is to be deleted and wherein the means for transmitting transmits the command that conveys instructions to the communication application server to delete the stored voice message previously transmitted by the first user to the first Pal, the mobile terminal further comprising means for receiving at the mobile terminal of the first user a signal representing that the stored voice message has been deleted.

25. (currently amended) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

receiving continually updated first data from a communication application server without the mobile terminal having to request same, where the first data defines which Pals on a list of Pals have previously transmitted voice message to user that is stored and awaits delivery to the user;

displaying a list of Pals including the display of visual indicia for certain Pals in the list of Pals where each of the certain Pals have of whether a voice message is waiting for delivery to the user from a Pal;

determining if a request to receive a waiting voice message has been initiated by thea user of the mobile terminal;

if said request is determined to have been made, transmitting at least one packet to thea communication application server requesting that the waiting voice message associated with a selected Pal be delivered to the user's mobile terminal;

receiving packets at the user's mobile terminal from the communication application server containing the waiting voice message and playing the message to the user.

26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the steps of determining if the request has been made comprises sensing that a Pal is selected by the user where the Pal has corresponding visual indicia indicating that a voice message from the Pal is waiting delivery to the user, and sensing an input initiated by the user representing a request to receive delivery of the voice message corresponding to the selected Pal.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of receiving a status update following receiving the packets where the status update indicates that there is no longer the voice

message from the Pal waiting delivery to the user and updating the visual indicia corresponding to the Pal whose voice message was received to show another visual indicia representing that the voice message is no longer waiting delivery to the user.

28. (currently amended) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

means for receiving continually updated first data from a communication application server without the mobile terminal having to request same, where the first data defines which Pals on a list of Pals have previously transmitted voice message to user that is stored and awaits delivery to the user;

means for displaying a list of Pals including means for displaying visual indicia for certain Pals in the list of Pals where each of the certain Pals have of whether a voice message is waiting for delivery to the user from a Pal;

means for determining if a request to receive a waiting voice message has been initiated by a user of the mobile terminal;

means for transmitting at least one packet to a communication application server requesting that the waiting voice message associated with a selected Pal be delivered to the user's mobile terminal if said request is determined to have been made;

means for receiving packets at the user's mobile terminal from the communication application server containing the waiting voice message and playing the message to the user.

29. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 28 wherein the means for determining if the request has been made comprises means for sensing that a Pal is selected by the user where the Pal has corresponding visual indicia indicating that a voice message from the Pal is waiting delivery to the user, and means for sensing an input initiated by the user representing a request to receive delivery of the voice message corresponding to the selected Pal.

30. (original) The mobile terminal of claim 29 further comprising means for receiving a status update following receiving the packets where the status update indicates that there is no longer the voice message from the Pal waiting delivery to the user and means for updating the visual indicia corresponding to the Pal whose voice message was received to show another visual indicia representing that the voice message is no longer waiting delivery to the user.

31 – 43. Canceled.

44. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein a first, single, visual indicia associated with one of the certain Pals represents more than one message waiting for the one certain Pal.

45. (New) The terminal of claim 28 wherein the means for displaying visual indicia displays a first, single, visual indicia associated with one of the certain Pals, where the first visual indicia represents more than one message waiting for the one certain Pal.

46. (New) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

displaying a list of Pals where each Pal on the list is determined by user controlled information stored in memory of the mobile terminal;

receiving continuously updated first data automatically sent from a communication application server where the first data indicates that at least one voice message from a respective Pal in the list of Pals is waiting to be delivered to a user;

displaying, based on the first data, visual indicia for certain of the displayed Pals in the list of Pals where the visual indicia indicates that each of the certain Pals have a voice message waiting for delivery from the communication application server to the user;

receiving continuously updated second data automatically sent from the communication application server where the second data represents presence status for each Pal in the list of Pals, the presence status indicating whether a mobile associated with each Pal is sensed by infrastructure equipment as being available for communications;

displaying, based on the second data, further visual indicia, separate from and independent of said visual indicia, for each of the displayed Pals, where the further visual indicia represents presence status of the associated Pal;

whereby the user of the mobile terminal can discern based on the displayed visual indicia and the further visual indicia the presence status and message waiting status for each Pal in the list of Pals.

47. (New) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

a display adapted to display a list of Pals where each Pal on the list is determined by user controlled information stored in memory of the mobile terminal;

the display displaying a list of Pals where each Pal on the list is determined by user controlled information stored in memory of the mobile terminal;

means for receiving continuously updated first data automatically sent from a communication application server where the first data indicates that at least one voice message from a respective Pal in the list of Pals is waiting to be delivered to a user;

the display displaying, based on the first data, visual indicia for certain of the displayed Pals in the list of Pals where the visual indicia indicates that each of the certain Pals have a voice message waiting for delivery from the communication application server to the user;

means for receiving continuously updated second data automatically sent from the communication application server where the second data represents presence status for each Pal in the list of Pals, the presence status indicating whether a mobile associated with each Pal is sensed by infrastructure equipment as being available for communications;

the display displaying, based on the second data, further visual indicia, separate from and independent of said visual indicia, for each of the displayed Pals, where the further visual indicia represents presence status of the associated Pal;

whereby the user of the mobile terminal can discern based on the displayed visual indicia and the further visual indicia the presence status and message waiting status for each Pal in the list of Pals.